Exploration of Gold and Petroleum Deposits in Bihar

†2217. SHRI RAVI SHANKAR PRASAD: Will the Minister of MINES be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Bihar Government has requested the Central Government to explore gold and petroleum deposits in the State; and

(b) if so, the steps being taken by Government in this regard; if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF MINES (SHRI JAYSINGRAO GAIKWAD PATIL): (a) Yes, Sir. In the month of June, 2001 the Government of Bihar has requested the Central Government (Ministry of Mines) to take up exploration for gold in Jamui District, Bihar.

As regards exploration of petroleum deposits, no request has been received by the Ministry of Petroleum and Natural Gas.

(b) The mineral exploration in Bihar is being taken up by Geological Survey of India as per the programmes approved by the Central Geological Programming Board.

The Government plans to accelerate the activities relating to the exploration of oil and gas in the State of Bihar through inclusion of some blocks under future round of bidding under New Exploration Licensing Policy (NELP).

Reservations for OBCs in Railways

†2218. SHRI D.P. YADAV: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) the number of appointments of class III and IV employees made in Indian Railways since implementation of reservation for OBCs and the details of such appointments in Zonal Railways and production units;

(b) whether there is any backlog in appointments of other backward communities in the Railways; and

(c) if so, the details thereof?

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†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI O. RAJAGOPAL): (a) The number of Other Backward Classes (OBCs), recruited since the introduction of reservation i.e. 1993 (from 8.9.1993) upto the year 2000 in Group 'C' & 'D' services on Indian Railways are as under:

Year	Number of OBCs recruited	
	Gr. C	Gr. D
1993	201	130
1994	347	249
1995	1982	1571
1996	3200	1839
1997	2763	2618
1998	1481	1281
1999	2148	1520
2000	2973	2903
TOTAL	15095	12111

The details of recruitment of OBCs in Group 'C' and Group 'D' made during the year 2000 (1.1.2000 to 31.12.2000), Zonal Railway/ Production Unit-wise, are furnished in the Statement (*see* below).

(b) and (c) The backlog of OBCs as on 1.1.2001, is as under:-

Group 'C'	2324
Group 'D'	3007

Statement

Recruitment of OBCs in Group C and Group D in Indian Railways

Zonal Railway/Production Unit	Group 'C'	Group 'D'
	Recruitment of OBCs made during the year 2000 (1.1.2000 to 31.12.2000)	Recruitment of OBCs made during the year 2000 1.1.2000 to 31.12.2000)
Central Railway	144	11
Eastern Railway	68	139
Northern Railway	2	—
North Eastern Railway	53	50
Northeast Frontier Railway	104	12
Southern Railway	33	14
South Central Railway	311	176
Sourth Eastern Railway	348	257
Western Railway	1807	2184
Chittaranjan Locomotive Works	22	—
Diesel Locomotive Works	30	5
Diesel Component Works	2	—
Integral Coach Factory	9	33
Rail Coach Factory	8	—
Wheel & Axle Plant	3	—
Research Designs & Standards Organisation	8	9
Metro Railway	5	13
Railway Board	16	—
TOTAL :	2973	2903